## **WE CLAIM:**

- 1. A method for colonizing a root-organ from a plant with a mycorrhizal fungus that comprises:
  - obtaining said root-organ from said plant;
  - growing said root-organ in a first culture medium;
  - removing a portion of said first culture medium in the proximity of at least one developing lateral root of said root-organ;
  - replacing said removed portion of said first culture medium with a portion of a second culture medium, wherein said second culture medium has been previously inoculated with said mycorrhizal fungus; and
  - allowing said at least one developing lateral root to grow through said portion of a second culture medium to contact said mycorrhizal fungus.
- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said mycorrhizal fungus is an ectomycorrhizal fungus.
- The method of claim 2, wherein said ectomycorrhizal fungus is Tuber melanosporum.
- 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said plant is a tree or a shrubby plant.
- 5. The method of claim 4, wherein said shrubby plant is a *Cistus*.
- 6. The method of claim 5, wherein said Cistus is Cistus incanus.
- 7. The method of claim 1, wherein said first culture medium and said second culture medium are solid culture media.

- 8. The method of claim 7, wherein said solid culture medium is minimal medium.
- 9. The method of claim 1, wherein said removed portion is a gel plug.
- 10. The method of claim 9, wherein said gel plug is a 8 mm diameter gel plug.
- 11. The method of claim 1, wherein said portion of said second culture medium is a gel plug.
- 12. The method of claim 11, wherein said portion of said second culture medium has shape and size similar to said removed portion.
- 13. Use of the methods of claim 1 to study *in vitro* the colonization of plant roots by a mycorrhizal fungus.
- 14. An *in vitro* model to study the colonization of plant roots by a mycorrhizal fungus, said model being obtained by the method according to claim1.